



HILLCREST RECYCLING SITE

All POL/SITREP's for this site (sitrep_list.aspx?site_id=8169) **Hillcrest** [Printer Friendly Version](#) ([polrep_p](#)

Recycling

Site

Attica, NY -

EPA Region

II

POLREP #3

Hillcrest

Recycling

Fire

Response

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Hillcrest Recycling Site - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region II

Subject:

**POLREP #3
Hillcrest Recycling Fire Response
Hillcrest Recycling Site
02ME
Attica, NY
Latitude: 42.8605560 Longitude: -78.2736560**

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Gregg Recer, NYSDOH
Mary Mears, USEPA Region 2

From: Jeff Bechtel, On-Scene Coordinator
Date: 10/11/2012
Reporting Period: September 14, 2012 to October 11, 2012

1. Introduction

1.1 Background



Site Number:	02ME	Contract Number:	EP-S2-10-03
D.O. Number:	0055	Action Memo Date:	9/21/2012
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Emergency
Response Lead:	EPA	Incident Category:	Removal Assessment
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	9/21/2012	Start Date:	9/12/2012
Demob Date:	10/2/2012	Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:		RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	09/11/2012
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

Air release of hazardous substances from waste pile fire at an industrial facility.

1.1.2 Site Description

The Hillcrest Industries facility collects boiler slag material (hardened residue collected from off-site co boilers) and processes it into sandblasting abrasive materials. The facility also processes glass fragments (cullet) into reflective road striping beads. Reportedly since May 2012, a fire has been smoldering in a pile of predominantly recycled plastic waste which covers an area of approximately one acre and is 40 feet high.

The facility receives mixed recycled glass, plastic, and paper waste and separates the glass portion for grinding into abrasives and reflective additives for road marking paint. Glass is separated from mechanical plastic, metal, and paper waste for further grinding into a fine particulate; residual plastic waste with metal is reportedly then sold to scrap dealers for additional reclamation of the metal content.

The Site encompasses Approximately 10 acres and has been in operation since 2000.

1.1.2.1 Location

The Hillcrest Industries facility (Site) is located on 40 Favor Street in Attica, NY. The area is rural/residential with residences present immediately adjacent to the Site. A high school is located approximately 200 feet from the Site.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

A stockpile of predominantly recycled plastic waste, covering an area of one acre and 40 feet high, has been burning (smoldering) since May 2012.

In July 2012, NYSDEC collected five dust samples from four residential properties and eleven samples from the Site at specific release points and from raw material and finished product. The samples were analyzed at NYSDEC's Microscopy Lab to determine the size of the particles to evaluate whether the dust could be attributed to Site operations. The particles found in the residential samples were reportedly attributable to facility operations and appear to be from crushed clear glass that feeds manufacturing operations. Reportedly, in addition to glass spheres and fractured glass, some slag product was identified.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

On September 21, 2012, OSC Bechtel arrived at the Hillcrest Recycling Response Site and met with Hillcrest representatives and NYSDEC officials. It was determined that EPA would continue to oversee the removal response party and ongoing carbon dioxide injection operations that were being performed by Hillcrest Recycling personnel throughout the weekend and until the F-500 FF agent was ready to be applied.

be determined - the thermocouples were being checked twice a day at each injection well.

On September 23, 2012, Rep Hochul had a meeting at the facility with the RP and Village personnel. toured the site and spoke with the concerned residents demonstrating outside.

The application of CO2 into the monitoring wells continued throughout the weekend with limited results. Temperatures in the two hottest monitoring wells climbed back up into the 400 degree F range by the of Monday, September 24, 2012. On September 24, 2012, EPA and a Response Manager from our E contractor, Environmental Restoration, met with the RP and Village personnel to discuss the next day's application of water and fire fighting material. This began at 0900 hours on Tuesday, September 2012, with a lance injecting the aqueous mixture at five foot intervals to a depth of 25 feet alongside the monitoring wells where temperatures were monitored. RST was on site for air monitoring and sampling facility grounds during the event.

On Wednesday, September 26, 2012, OCS Bechtel determined that the injection of F500 encapsulating fighting agent was not successful and determined that the best course of action was to dismantle the waste pile. OSC met with RP's and prospective firefighting contractor, Wargo Enterprises, and determined that the contractor had: 40hr Health & Safety certifications for their employees; necessary heavy equipment including pumper trucks; and a proposed work plan that adequately addressed the issues revolving around the selected operation. OSC approved the use of the contractor by the RP.

The dismantling of the waste pile began on Saturday, September 29th, 2012. The rationale for initiating work on a Saturday was to minimize the impact to the nearby school. A decision was made to include volatile organic analyses since there is a significant amount of that class of contaminants in a fire involving organic materials.

ERT/SERAS mobilized on Friday, September 28th, 2012 in order to begin sampling on Saturday 29th, the inception of the dismantling process. The locations included; 5 down wind in an arc formation; one perimeter; one up wind. These locations were not fixed, but rather were based on wind direction per site. Daily sampling took place for the 7 locations, while 24hr operations were implemented, two sets of run collected to take into account environmental condition variances between day time and overnight hour analytical work was performed by SERAS.

Also on September 26th, OSC and PAD Basile met with the aides for Representative Hochul and Sen. Gallivan, discussed the site to date and proposed activities.

OSC met with reps from the two prisons and the two schools to update them on the site activities and address their concerns.

OSC and the ER Response Manager met with the county and local officials to review the proposed work for the disassembly and extinguishing of the burning stockpile.

OSC met with state and county DOH to discuss sample locations for the weekend; it was agreed to use same locations as last time for continuity unless the wind direction changes.

OSC met with Hillcrest rep to ensure that they are proceeding with the finalization of the work plan. Response Manager and the Attica Fire Chief spoke with Wargo Enterprises (the RPs mitigation contractor) to ensure firefighting water needs could be met.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

EPA continued to oversee site activities conducted by Wargo Enterprises.

EPA met with local and state officials on a daily basis.

EPA Region 2 Public Affairs Division issued press releases for distribution and coordinated inquiries from local media.

<http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/removal/hillcrest/index.html>

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2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

Hillcrest Recycling is the Responsible Party. The NYSDEC will take the lead in the enforcement process.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

As of October 11, 2012 @9:00 AM

Total amount of material moved and cooled on October 10, 2012: 2,820 cubic yards

Total amount of material moved: 40,690 cubic yards

Percentage of total pile moved: Approximately 65% of the pile

Temperatures of the pile: 625 deg F

PAH sample results: non detect

Air Monitoring – Particulates

Dust Traks were at or below 0.010 mg/m³.

Air Monitoring – VOCs

the Area RAEs were reading at 0.0ppm.

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

Extinguishing of the fire.

Reduction of stock pile sizes.

Air sampling and monitoring.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

EPA is coordinating with NYSDEC in working with the RP to develop a disposition plan for the cooled, materials which have been removed from the debris pile.

In addition, NYSDEC is in discussions with the RP to determine when - or if - the air handling equipment is in good, working condition and will allow for the resumption of the glass grinding operation which supports manufacturing operations which also take place on site.

2.2.2 Issues

Long term program management and oversight of the facility will need to be addressed by the NYSDEC.

2.3 Logistics Section

N/A

2.4 Finance Section

2.4.1 Narrative

Fire fighting costs are being paid for by the RP.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
Environmental Restoration	\$250,000.00	\$5,435.00	\$244,565.00	97.83%
ERT/SERAS	\$189,000.00	\$0.00	\$189,000.00	100.00%
RST Weston	\$110,000.00	\$0.00	\$110,000.00	100.00%
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$549,000.00	\$5,435.00	\$543,565.00	99.01%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time the report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to a contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

All operations will conform to the following regulations:

Title 29, Part 1910 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Occupational Safety and Health Standards (with special attention to Section 120, Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response)

Title 29, Part 1926 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Safety and Health Regulations for Construction

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health / OSHA / USCG / EPA Occupational Safety and Health Guidance Manual for Hazardous Waste Site Activities

2.5.2 Liaison Officer

N/A

2.5.3 Information Officer

EPA PAD, Mike Basile and Mary Mears, will keep the media informed of all site activities. A website was developed for public information.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

US EPA

Hillcrest Industries

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Department of Health

Wyoming County Department of Health

Wyoming County Office of Emergency Management

Village of Attica

Town of Attica

4. Personnel On Site

US EPA - 1

US EPA / ERT - 1

Lockheed Martin - 2

Weston Solutions - 2

Wargo Enterprises - as needed

5. Definition of Terms

N/A

6. Additional sources of information**6.1 Internet location of additional information/report**

NYSDEC website

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/83781.html>

(http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/83781.html)

US EPA website

<http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/removal/hillcrest/index.html>

(http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/removal/hillcrest/index.html)

6.2 Reporting Schedule

Weekly or As needed

7. Situational Reference Materials

N/A



> EPA OSC Home (../Default.aspx)

> Web sites (region_list.aspx?region=2)

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